

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A method for displaying search results using a computer, said method comprising the steps of:

storing data files within a plurality of databases wherein each data file includes a business community identifier and a sub-business community identifier, each business community identifier represents a business community the corresponding data file is assigned to, and each sub-business community identifier represents a sub-business community the corresponding data file is assigned to;

inputting into the computer user data including at least one of an organization associated with a user, a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user;

assigning the user to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community based on the user data;

assigning the user to at least one customized business community by enabling the user to input the at least one customized business community into the computer;

prompting the user to enter search terms into the computer for performing a search for information;

displaying on the computer search results from the plurality of databases, each search result satisfies the entered search terms, each search result includes at least one of the stored data files and the business community identifier and the sub-business community identifier associated therewith; and

displaying a subset of the search results as a result of the user selecting a search zoom tool displayed on the computer, the search zoom tool enables the user to display a subset of the search results based on at least one of the business community assigned to the user, the sub-business community assigned to the user, and the at least one customized business community assigned to the user and the business community identifier and sub-business

community identifier included within each search result, the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection.

2. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the search zoom tool includes a user interactive selection bar that enables the user to display a subset of the search results by selecting a location on the selection bar that corresponds with the subset of the search results to be displayed, and wherein displaying a subset of the search results further comprises:

displaying a subset of the search results when the user selects a business community location on the selection bar including each search result having a business community identifier that corresponds with the business community assigned to the user;

displaying a subset of the search results when the user selects a sub-business community location on the selection bar including each search result having a sub-business community identifier that corresponds with the sub-business community assigned to the user; and

displaying a subset of the search results when the user selects a customized business community location on the selection bar including each search result having a business community identifier that corresponds with the customized business community assigned to the user.

3. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein each search result is previously assigned to a geographic location, and wherein displaying a subset of the search results based on a user selection further comprises displaying a subset of the search results based on a user selection relating to the geographic location of the user.

4. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein displaying on the computer search results further comprises enabling a user to select one of a plurality of types of search results to be displayed, wherein a first type of search result that can be displayed comprises a complete set of the search results, and wherein a second type of search result comprises a subset of the complete search results.

5. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 4 wherein enabling a user to select one of a plurality of types of search results to be displayed further comprises enabling a user to select one of a plurality of types of search results to be displayed, the second type of search result is based on a first vector wherein the first vector includes a business community assigned to the user.

6. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 5 wherein enabling a user to select one of a plurality of types of search results to be displayed further comprises enabling a user to select a third type and a fourth type of search results, the third type of search result based on a second vector and the fourth type of search result based on a third vector, the second vector includes a sub-business community assigned to the user and the third vector includes a customized business community assigned to the user.

7. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 5 wherein displaying a subset of the search results based on a selection by the user further comprises displaying a subset of the search results based on a selection by the user including by at least one of an engineering business community, a power systems sub-business community, and aircraft industry sub-business community.

8. (previously presented) A computer comprising a user interface and a processor, said processor programmed to:

store data files within at least one database wherein each data file includes a business community identifier and a sub-business community identifier, the at least one database is coupled to the computer, each business community identifier represents a business community the corresponding data file is assigned to, and each sub-business community identifier represents a sub-business community the corresponding data file is assigned to;

receive user data including at least one of an organization associated with a user, a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user;

assign the user to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community based on the user data;

assign the user to at least one customized business community by enabling the user to input the at least one customized business community the user desires to be assigned to;

prompt the user to enter search terms for performing a search for information;

display on said user interface search results from the at least one database, each search result satisfies the entered search terms, each search result includes at least one of the stored data files and the business community identifier and the sub-business community identifier associated therewith; and

display on said user interface a subset of the search results as a result of the user selecting a search zoom tool displayed on the user interface, the search zoom tool enables the user to display a subset of the search result based on at least one of the business community assigned to the user, the sub-business community assigned to the user, and the at least one customized business community assigned to the user and the business community identifier and sub-business community identifier included within each search result, the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection.

9. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 8 wherein said computer is configured to be coupled to a network, and wherein the at least one database corresponding to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community is in the network.

10. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 8 wherein the search zoom tool includes a user interactive selection bar that enables the user to display a subset of the search results by selecting a location on the selection bar that corresponds with the subset of the search results to be displayed, and wherein said processor is further configured to:

display on the user interface a subset of the search results when the user selects a business community location on the selection bar including each search result having a business community identifier that corresponds with the business community assigned to the user;

display on the user interface a subset of the search results when the user selects a sub-business community location on the selection bar including each search result having a sub-

business community identifier that corresponds with the sub-business community assigned to the user; and

display on the user interface a subset of the search results when the user selects a customized business community location on the selection bar including each search result having a business community identifier that corresponds with the customized business community assigned to the user.

11. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 8 wherein said processor is further programmed to:

prompt the user to select a customized business community;

display on said user interface a user interactive selection bar including a business community location on the selection bar, a sub-business community location on the selection bar, and a customized business community location on the selection bar; and

display on said user interface a subset of the search results based on the location selected by the user on the interactive selection bar, the displayed subset of search results corresponding to the location selected by the user and the community wherein each search result has been assigned.

12. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 11 wherein said interactive selection bar further includes a location on the interactive selection bar for displaying a subset of search results relating to a geographic location of the user.

13. (original) A computer according to Claim 8 wherein said user selection comprises one of a plurality of communities in which the user is a member.

14. (original) A computer according to Claim 8 wherein said user interface is configured so that a user can select one of a plurality of types of search results to be displayed, and wherein a first type of search result that can be displayed comprises a complete set of the search results, and wherein a second type of search result comprises a subset of the complete search results.

15. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 14 wherein said second type of search result is based on a first vector wherein the first vector includes a business community assigned to the user.

16. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 15 wherein a user can select a third type and a fourth type of search results, said third type of search result based on a second vector and said fourth type of search result based on a third vector, the second vector includes the sub-business community assigned to the user and the third vector includes a customized business community selected by the user.

17. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 8 wherein said business community includes an engineering community, and said sub-business community includes at least one of a power systems community, and an aircraft industry community.

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for displaying search results on a user interface coupled to a computer, said program comprising a code segment that receives user data including at least one of an organization associated with a user, a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user and then:

stores data files within at least one database wherein each data file includes a business community identifier and a sub-business community identifier, each business community identifier represents a business community the corresponding data file is assigned to, and each sub-business community identifier represents a sub-business community the corresponding data file is assigned to;

assigns the user to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community based on the user data;

assigns the user to at least one customized business community by enabling the user to input the at least one customized business community that the user desires to be assigned to;

prompts the user to enter search terms for performing a search for information;

displays on the user interface search results from the at least one database, each search result satisfies the entered search terms, each search result includes at least one of the stored data files ~~each search result includes at least one of the stored data files~~ and the business community identifier and the sub-business community identifier associated therewith; and

displays on the user interface a subset of the search results as a result of the user selecting a search zoom tool displayed on the computer, the search zoom tool enables the user to display a subset of the search results based on at least one of the business community assigned to the user, the sub-business community assigned to the user and the at least one customized business community assigned to the user and the business community identifier and sub-business community identifier included within each search result, the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection.

22. (previously presented) A computer program in accordance with Claim 21 further comprising a code segment that:

prompts the user to select a customized business community;

displays on the user interface the search zoom tool including a user interactive selection bar that enables the user to display a subset of the search results by selecting a location on the selection bar that corresponds with the subset of the search results to be displayed, and wherein the selection bar includes a business community location on the selection bar, a sub-business community location on the selection bar, and a customized business community location on the selection bar; and

displays on the user interface a subset of the search results based on the location selected by the user on the selection bar, the displayed subset of search results corresponding

to the location selected by the user on the selection bar and the community wherein each search result has been assigned.

23. (previously presented) A computer program in accordance with Claim 21 further comprising a code segment wherein the at least one business community includes an engineering community, and the at least one sub-business community includes at least one of a power systems community, and an aircraft industry community.

24. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising:

storing information in the at least one database corresponding to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community including a plurality of documents relating to a plurality of subject matters; and

assigning each document stored in the database to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community.

25. (previously presented) A computer in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said processor is further programmed to:

store information in the at least one database corresponding to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community including a plurality of documents relating to a plurality of subject matters; and

assign each document stored in the database to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community.